## MITIGATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLAN IMPROVEMENT 5456

(No. 3 June 1991)

During the review of a THP, including the preharvest inspection, the department forester may have suggestions that could assist in significantly lessening adverse impacts of the operation on any timberland resources. These suggestions may result from a review team member's concerns or could address some situation not covered in the THP or a situation inadequately addressed by the rules. Under these circumstances, the department forester involved in reviewing a plan has a professional obligation to present these suggestions to the plan submitter. The submitter may or may not agree with concerns expressed by the suggestions. The plan submitter is not required to incorporate suggestions into the THP, but the submitter should be requested to respond to these suggestions. The plan submitter is not required to incorporate suggestions into the THP, but the submitter should not be requested to respond to these suggestions before the department's determination on a THP. There is no need to distinguish between what the rules require and what is a suggestion. Many times there is a fine line between what is or is not required by the rules. The "suggestion" and its response will help determine whether to approve, disapprove, or delay action on a plan in accordance with the board's rules.

Regulations 14 CCR §898.1(d), 1037.5(f), and 1037.6 provide for department representatives to make suggestions to the plan submitter to develop a better plan to meet the intent of the rules. Each article in the forest district rules has an objective section that explains the goal of the rules in the article and provides a basis for suggesting measures needed to meet that goal. The department forester shall make appropriate suggestions when the situation warrants developing a better plan for meeting the purposes of the rules. This is a particularly important function when the articles of the rules allow alternative prescriptions or practices.

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